

HOUSE RESOLUTION 126

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A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harry E. Eleas of Bristol.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Harry E. Eleas; and

WHEREAS, Harry E. Eleas was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in his chosen country, state, and communities throughout Northeast Tennessee and southwestern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eleas was born in Alea, Greece, in September of 1924; he was the son of the late Eleas and Helen Kapourales Eleas. As a young man, he was a shepherd, and he served in the Greek Army in the years that followed the greatest war the world has ever known; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eleas emigrated to the United States in 1951 and began his highly successful career as a restaurateur. Residing first with extended family in Williamson, West Virginia, the gentleman later re-located to the Tri-Cities area where his name became synonymous with his fine eateries, The Virginia Café and subsequently the Athens Steak House; and

WHEREAS, though not a native Tennessean, Mr. Eleas was a tried and true transplant to the State, the ways and culture of which he came to cherish and respect; and so, too, did his friends, neighbors, and the dining public of the area embrace the cultural cuisine and customs of Harry Eleas' native land; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eleas came to embrace the agrarian culture and mountain ways of the heart of the mid-Appalachians, he enjoyed farming and loved animals; and

WHEREAS, Harry Eleas was an active and devout member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, where he and his family worshipped faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eleas was deeply devoted to his family, and he enjoyed the loving companionship and support of his wife of sixty years, Betty Speropulos Eleas; and

WHEREAS, together, Mr. and Mrs. Eleas produced five children, each of whom he was exceedingly proud, and they are son Louie Eleas, daughter-in-law Suzanne Eleas, daughter Georgea Green and husband Paul, son Chris Eleas and wife Kelly, and son Harry H. Eleas and special friend Christy Cain; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eleas is sorely missed by his loving grandchildren, Jonathan, Chris, Austin, Maria, Alexandra, Abigail, Sarah, and Tucker, his sisters, Lula, Despina, and Angelo, and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eleas leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Harry E. Eleas, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Eleas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.